(b) Personal computers attract 15 per-cent excise duty, manual typewriters attract various specific rates and electronic typewriters attract 25 per cent excise duty. These items are not comparable with each other. The classification of computers and typewriters from the point of view of levy of excise duty is also different under the Central Excise Tarif Act.

PROTEST AGAINST DUNKEL DRAFT BY FORMERS

2392. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian farmers have joined their counterparts in France, Japan and other countries to protest against adoption of Dunkel Draft;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under caption "Farmers protest against Dunkel in Geneva" as reported in the Statesman, Delhi edition dated 5th December, 1993 and

(c) if so, further steps being taken to protect Indian farmers against foreign invasion in to Indian Agridulture ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (d) A news item had appeared in "The Statesman" of 5 December, 1993, in which it was reported that farmers from India, Europe and Japan demonstrated at Geneva against adoption of the Dunkel Draft.

(c) It is not anticipated that there would be any foreign invasion into Indian Agriculture.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING FROM COAL EXPORT

2393. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN :
SHRI J. S. RAJU :
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total coal exported during 1992-93 and the amount earned during this period;

(b) what is the name of the country which imported the maximum coal from India; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to boost foreign exchange earnings from coal export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total quantity of coal exported is 5.01 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 50.01 crores during 1992-93.

(b) Bangladesh

(c) All restriction on export of coal have been removed from 1-4-1993.

IMPORT OF COMPUTERS FROM USA

2394. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import powerful computers from USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the background for such a move;

(c) whether availability of these powerful computers in the country has been planned for the year 1994;

(d) if so, the details thereof with amount of foreign exchange to be spent on such import;

(e) whether advantages of these computers have been explained to the people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (f) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, Computer Systems